

LAS VEGAS

REVIEW-JOURNAL

BUSINESS Verizon has begun upgrading its NLV site to prepare for 5G **14B**

SPORTS Barrel racer Nellie Williams attended UNLV for two years **7C**

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USA Today

- Reilly Smith scored in a shootout to lift the Golden Knights to a 4-3 win over the Predators in Nashville. **1C**
- The national Republican State Leadership Committee paid for campaigns to recall three Nevada state senators. **1B**
- Three Pahrump boys' backyard fire exploded, leaving two with serious burns. **1B**
- A Denver couple's desire to thank Oct. 1 first responders snowballed into 1,000 gift baskets. **1B**
- Two Democrats say Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton's pick to fill Al Franken's Senate seat, Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, might also for the seat next year. **4A**
- President Donald Trump says the GOP must hold onto the Alabama Senate seat being sought by Roy Moore. **4A**
- The Las Vegas Victims' Fund committee will accept feedback on guidelines for distribution until 10 a.m. Monday. **14B**
- Robust U.S. hiring underscores the economy's growing momentum. **14B**
- A new mosque is a testament to the growing Muslim population in Central Florida. **5B**
- Facebook on Friday released its policies against workplace harassment and bullying. **8A**
- The snow that blanketed parts of the Deep South revived memories of past storms. **8A**
- Britain and the EU hailed a breakthrough on Brexit. **10A**
- Geoffrey Rush is suing a Sydney newspaper for portraying him as a sexual predator. **10A**
- Burning Man organizers seek to expand Northern Nevada's counterculture festival. **2B**
- A sailor killed at Pearl Harbor will be reburied Saturday, 76 years later. **2A**

Plenty of
sunshine
63 42

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SLS lenders sue developers

Chinese investors didn't receive cards, say company never profitable

By **Todd Prince**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

The SLS Las Vegas hasn't turned a profit since opening in 2014 and is on the "verge of bankruptcy," according to a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County by 60 Chinese nationals who lent money to the project in exchange for U.S. citizenship.

Chinese investors lent roughly

\$400 million in two nearly equal portions in 2013 and 2014 to help owners Stockbridge Capital Group and sbe Entertainment convert the Sahara on the north Strip into the SLS Las Vegas.

The loans were organized under the EB-5 Pilot Program that allows foreign citizens to potentially receive U.S. citizenship if they invest \$500,000 in "at-risk" large-scale projects that

create jobs. The five-year loans carried just a 0.5 percent interest rate. Each investor paid \$45,000 in administration fees to invest in the project and must pay a yearly management fee.

None of the 60 individuals in the class action case have received their permanent green card, they say in a lawsuit filed Nov. 30 in

See **SLS** 7A

The lawsuit was filed by 60 Chinese nationals who lent money to the project in exchange for U.S. citizenship.

Expanding fires allow little time to escape

Flames spread quickly by Santa Ana winds

By **Julie Watson and Elliot Spagat**
The Associated Press

FALLBROOK, Calif. — Flames were practically on top of Dick and Joan Marsala's home when they got an urgent knock on the door and were told to leave.

The couple, in their mid-80s, grabbed only a change of clothes and medications before fleeing Thursday through wind gusts and smoke as fire swallowed the row of mobile homes behind their place in the Rancho Monserate Country Club north of San Diego.

It's a story that has played out in communities across much of Southern California this week as ferocious winds whipped sparks into massive infernos that have killed one person, destroyed nearly 700 homes and buildings,



Gregory Bull The Associated Press

killed dozens of horses and forced hundreds of thousands of people to run from fires that have burned more than 260 square miles since Monday.

On Friday, the first fire-related death was confirmed by the Ventura County medical examiner's office.

Virginia Pesola, 70, of Santa Paula, was found dead Wednes-

day night along an evacuation route near a fire northwest of Los Angeles. Her death was caused by crash injuries, smoke inhalation and burns, the medical examiner's office said in a statement.

The flames that tore through Fallbrook, self-proclaimed "Avocado Capital of the World," and

See **WILDFIRES** 6A

Fire crews search for hot spots among destroyed homes Friday in the Rancho Monserate Country Club community in Fallbrook, Calif.

Lawyer who stole millions sentenced to up to 40 years

By **David Ferrara**
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Disbarred Las Vegas estate lawyer Robert Graham stole millions of dollars from the dying and disabled.

His narcissism ruined the lives of survivors and left clients penniless, a prosecutor said at Graham's sentencing Friday on five felony counts. He lied, exploited trust and abandoned dozens of vulnerable families in order to satiate his own greed.

District Judge Kerry Earley ordered the 53-year-old, who admitted that he poured piles

of stolen cash into homes, cars and Mormon church tithings, to serve 16 to 40 years behind bars, the maximum sentence for charges that included theft and exploitation of vulnerable people. He spent chunks of the money, he said, on television advertising in an attempt to resuscitate his floundering practice.

He still owes \$16,030,396.69 to many like Barbara Macknin, whose husband Michael hired Graham before dying "a gut-wrenching death" from

See **GRAHAM** 6A



Erik Verduzco Las Vegas Review-Journal

Former attorney Robert Graham, convicted of swindling more than \$16 million from clients, is led away after his sentencing Friday at the Regional Justice Center.

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